



March winds are blowing up some especially good deals at COOK CHEVROLET



2002 CHEV EXPRESS LT - Leather - VCR - Dual Flip Down Screens - Must see



1994 Z-71 SPORTSIDE EX TENDED CAB super clean - sharp truck



1994 NISSAN ALTIMA GXE - AT-4 - nice - great price !!



1998 MITSUBISHI MONTERO SPT - AT-6 - 4X2



1998 MITSUBISHI MONTERO SPORT - AT - 6 - sharp - great buy



2000 FORD EXPEDITION XLT - 3rd seat - rear air - p.w. - tilt - cruise



1999 FORD EXPLORER XLS - p.w. & locks - tilt-cruise - AM/FMCD player



2000 CHEVROLET SPORTSIDE - reg cab - like new - must see - 30K miles



1998 HONDA ACCORD EX - sunroof - loaded - AT - one owner - sharp



2002 MUSTANG - p.w. & l, tile, cruise, low mileage



2000 CHEV TRACKER 4 X 4 - AT-4 - loaded - great buy



2002 CHEV TRAILBLAZER LS - local trade - like new



2002 CHEV VENTURE VAN LS - under factory warranty



2000 LINCOLN TOWN CAR - Signature Series - one owner - like new - MUST SEE



2000 F-250 SUPERCAB XLT 2w drive - v-10 automatic - local trade



2001 HONDA ODYSSEY - 4 dr loaded - local trade



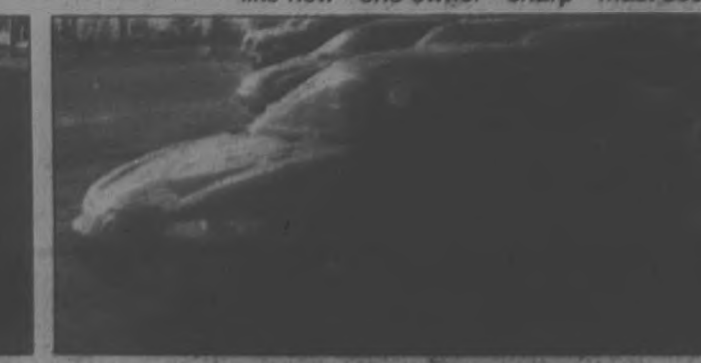
2001 CHEV 4X2 L3 PKG like new - one owner - sharp - must see



1999 FORD EXPLORER XLS - P.W. & L - tilt - cruise, AM-FM CD player



2002 SATURN - AT - power - LW - only 17K miles - still has factory warranty



1999 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX local trade-in - clean car



2001 TAHOE LS pkg - 4X2 - sharp



PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN

YOU KNOW THAT A COOK DEAL IS A GOOD DEAL - ALWAYS HAS BEEN - COME SEE US!
FAIR PRICES • TOP NOTCH SERVICE • QUALITY VEHICLES
NO NEED TO SHOP AROUND . . . COME STRAIGHT TO US!



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The Elba Clipper

Volume 106, Number 39

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Elba, Alabama

Thursday, March 13, 2003

1 Section, 16 Pages

Coffee County Commission looking to collect delinquent garbage fees

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The county's garbage collection took center stage once again at the regular bimonthly meeting Monday, March 10, of the Coffee County Commission when officials made a decision concerning the future of the collection process.

During the previous meeting of the commission, bids were opened for the county's solid waste collection process, and three companies submitted bids for consideration. There were two options the companies could bid on: Option 1A would let the contracted company pick up the solid waste in Coffee County and also be responsible for the billing process and collection of money from the county residents for the service. Option 2B would let the

contracted company pick up the solid waste with the county paying an agreed upon monthly service fee, and then the county would be responsible for the billing process and collecting its money from the residents. This is the current procedure (method).

The options were looked at because commissioners had become concerned about some nearly 150 delinquent accounts which had accumulated over the past two and a half years.

During the meeting, Industries (MDI) submitted a bid only for Option 2B in the amount of \$52,225 per month. Arrow Disposal Services submitted a bid of \$13.70 for Option 1A and \$66,000 for Option 2B. Barry Moore Industries submitted a bid of

\$14.13 for Option 1A and \$59,076 for Option 2B.

Commissioner Kayo Lewis offered a motion Monday morning with a second from commissioner Linda Westbrook to award the contract to MDI as the low bidder at \$52,225 per month as explained in Option 2B. (MDI holds the current contract for Coffee County's solid waste collection.)

"The problem with this bid and it saving the customers over \$2 per month is that it is costing the county over \$150,000 per year, and I don't think the county can keep sustaining this," Commissioner Doug Dairymple said.

Commissioner Bernest Brooks agreed with Dairymple but said he believes the best thing for Coffee County to do is take over its own garbage pick-up.

"I'm concerned about dwindling tax dollars leaving the county," Brooks said. "We could

Please See CCC, Page 11

Elba COC sponsors Legislative Breakfast

The Elba Chamber of Commerce hosted a Legislative Breakfast Friday morning, March 7, with Senator Jimmy Holley and Representative Terry Spicer serving as the guest

speakers. Both Holley and Spicer spoke about items the legislature is currently looking at in session, and two of the hottest topics included the budgeting process



Miss Elba Shay Johnson, Junior Miss Elba Lyndsay Lawford and Little Miss Elba Brinley Williams were among those at Elba First Baptist Church early Friday morning, March 9, for a Legislative Breakfast sponsored by the Elba Chamber of Commerce.

and education funding. "We have a real difficult budgetary time in our state," Holley said.

With that in mind, he said the state government officials have decided to hold budget hearings. Spicer said state officials currently are looking at what they are going to do, and he said he appreciates the governor's efforts in taking the time to look at all possible avenues.

As for education funding, Spicer said the people of Alabama helped alleviate the funding crisis when they voted to establish a Rainy Day fund. However, he said the state is still possibly looking at a six percent proration. Locally, he said it could be as much as eight percent.

"The governor has a very unique way of looking at things, and I appreciate the things he has done so far," Spicer said. "He and his staff are new at the game and are going to need time to get a good understanding."

He said the approach that needs to be taken is knowing what the state can spend per student but also realizing the actual cost per student.

Both Holley and Spicer said they look forward to working with Governor Bob Riley and were happy to be able to update local citizens on the happenings in Montgomery.

Coffee County BOE assesses storm damage

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Storm damage repairs highlighted the regular monthly meeting of the Coffee County Board of Education Thursday evening, March 6, as board members received an update from Superintendent Dr. Linda Ingram.

The superintendent told board members that a storm which moved through the area Friday evening, Feb. 21, caused building damage at the campuses of Kinston and Zion Chapel, and she said the estimated insurance cost to repair the damage will be approximately \$75,000.

At Kinston, Ingram said the entire high school building will need to be re-roofed with the exception of two small extensions, and the Zion Chapel campus found nearly every building experiencing some type of damage from the storm. She said if the board declares the situation an emergency, the bid period can be shortened to allow repair work to begin sooner.

Therefore, Ingram asked the board members to declare an emergency and give her permission to prepare a bid package to send out. She also asked for permission to go ahead and accept the low bid so materials can be ordered and the work started as soon as possible.

"We've got a two week spring break coming up," Ingram said. "It sure would be nice to get some of the work done while the students are out."

Ingram also reminded board members that the \$75,000 is what the insurance company will pay for damage repairs, and this amount will not cover any additional decking work or rotten wood replacement.

Board member Ruben McKinnon offered a motion to go along with Ingram's recommendation, and with a second from board member Larry Eddins, the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Board members voted Thursday evening to award the computer technology bids to Dell, and Ingram informed the



Zion Chapel FFA instructor John McCrory and his son take a ride on the school's BattleBot while students Jared Flowers, Andy Kelley and Josh Richards manuever it during a demonstration for Coffee County Board of Education members last Thursday evening. McCrory and the three students will travel to California to compete in the Second Annual National BattleBot Competition. They recently won a competition in Opp.

members that New Brockton Elementary School recently had some monitors damaged by lightning. Actually, she said the lightning damage at New Brockton occurred on the same evening in which the other schools experienced building damage from the storm.

Ingram introduced a new hands on training program in which she referred to as aspiring administrators. With this, she told board members there is only one assistant principal system wide for the Coffee County Schools; however, there are nine teachers within the system certified to be administrators. Therefore, she asked board

members to designate these teachers as principals to allow them to participate in the hands on training program to gain experience for the position.

Ingram said this hands on training will ultimately allow these teachers to step into the role of administrator when the time arises. At this point, she said the program will only be open to those who already are certified as administrators, but eventually, she hopes to open it to other teachers who later become certified.

This program was approved unanimously by the board.

Please See BOE, Page 3

Elba Police officers arrest suspect following burglary

Officers with the Elba Police Department found themselves charged with multiple crimes struggling to apprehend a suspect Monday evening, March 10, when they responded to the scene of a burglary and kidnapping.

According to reports, Phillip

Musgrove was arrested and charged with multiple crimes after breaking into an Elba residence and holding a woman at knife point.

Officers said the female victim tried to get away from the suspect, but he managed to drag her

back into the home.

Elba Police officers were notified of the situation and responded to the residence where they had to break down the door to enter.

Once inside, the officers struggled with Musgrove and eventually had to use pepper spray to contain him. He was arrested and placed in a police car for transportation. Musgrove proceeded to kick the door and window of the vehicle and caused approximately \$500 worth of damage to the vehicle.

He was charged with kidnapping, burglary, assault - second degree and resisting arrest. As of press time, Musgrove remained in the Coffee County Jail.

Area Happenings

NEW SEASON'S STUDY CLUB will sponsor the 2003 Miss Elba pageants Saturday, March 15, 6 p.m., at the Elba High School auditorium. An admission will be charged.

A SAVE TEENS PROGRAM will be held at Elba High School Wednesday, March 19, in the auditorium. The program is sponsored by the ABC board and will be offered in two separate sessions - 8 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. It is a real-life account as a mother tells the story of her child's death due to an overdose. It is open to the public, and all parents and interested parties are invited to attend.

REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF COFFEE COUNTY will meet at the Folks Restaurant, 620 Holl Weevil Circle Wednesday, March 19, at 11:30 a.m. for a luncheon meeting. Guest speaker will be Betty Peters, District 2, Alabama State Board of Education. The menu will be grilled white fish, baked potato, salad, and drink for \$7.00 inclusive. The public is invited. For reservations call Fay McCary at 393-0471.

ELBA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL will hold kindergarten registration Friday, March 21, from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Another registration will be held Wednesday, April 23, and Thursday, April 24, also from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Please bring birth certificate, social security card and a blue shot record for each child.

THE ELBA PUBLIC LIBRARY will hold a book sale April 7-12 during regular operating hours. All donations for the sale will be accepted.

NEWS BRIEF

After responding to one disturbance Thursday evening, March 6, Elba Police officers found the victim of an apparent stabbing already in the emergency room at the Elba General Hospital. Officers were investigating the domestic disturbance when they found Henry J. James, age 47, at the er with a stab wound in the lower back. His injuries appeared to be sustained from a separate incident rather than the disturbance.

LIFESTYLES

C.C. Democratic Conference (ADC) to meet March 13

The Coffee County Democratic Conference (ADC) will meet Thursday, March 13, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at Saint Beulah Baptist Church on Carroll Street. All members and other interested persons are invited to attend.

The Southeast Alabama Beekeepers Association to meet

The Southeast Alabama Beekeepers Association will hold its monthly meeting on the 13th of March 2003, at the Coffee County Farm Center, in the Extension Office Community Room in New Brockton, AL at 7:00 PM. For more information call Richard Steeles at 334-393-1924 or Al Liepins at 334-566-7340



THE CHILDREN OF BILL AND JOANN DRIGGERS of Elba honored the couple with a 25th Wedding Anniversary reception Sunday afternoon, March 9, at Liberty Church of Christ. Bill and JoAnn were married March 17, 1978.

Small Ads Work!
You're Reading One!

Federal student loan interest drops

Federal student loan interest rates dropped to their lowest levels in decades on July 1, bringing significant savings to students and parents.

Students who are in school in the six-month grace period after leaving school, or in deferment will pay 3.46 percent interest on their Stafford Loans. Borrowers repaying Stafford Loans disbursed after June 1998 will pay 4.06 percent interest. The interest on PLUS Loans for parents will drop to 4.86 percent.

Benefits of the rate drop are substantial. Borrowers with a \$10,000 in student loan debt and a 10-year standard repayment plan will save about \$1,133 in interest over the life of the loan.

For more information about other KHEAA programs, publications, and services, contact the Alabama Student Loan Program at (800)928-5327 or visit www.kheaa.com.

Miss Magwood and Mr Griggs will be united in marriage March 15

James Robert Griggs, Jr. and Beverly Denise Magwood announce their engagement and forthcoming marriage.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Leon Kelly and the late Janice Mae Kelly. She is the granddaughter of Mrs. Nannie Mae Kelly and the late Buford Kelly, and Roberta and the late Joshua Magwood, all of Elba, Ala.

Miss Magwood is a graduate of Elba High School.

The future groom is the son of Mrs. Shirley and the late James Griggs, Sr. He is the grandson of the late Cornelius and B. Lucas and the late Benjamin and Pearl Griggs all of Mobile, Ala.

Mr. Griggs is a graduate of Vigor High School in Mobile, Ala. He received a degree in Sociology at a college in Mobile, Ala.

The wedding will be held at three o'clock in the afternoon on March 15, 2003 at Alabama Army National Guard in Elba.



Miss Magwood and Mr. Griggs

BRANTLEY SCHOOL HONOR ROLL SECOND NINE WEEKS



A HONOR ROLL

First Grade: Haley Adams, Hannah Barron, Sarah Driggers, Kelsey Hall, Peyton Hill, Clay Haws, Clark Kilcrease.

Second Grade: Emily Alverson, Josh Bryan, Eric Daniels, Taylor Driggers, Jonathan Eiland, Dow Gardner.

Third Grade: Summer Bradley, Leeza Holmes, Clint Kilcrease, Garrett Montgomery and Jonathan Williamson.

Fourth Grade: Chris Bass, Deuce Donaldson, De Anna Elliot, Joseph Gardner, Hasina Lee, Richard Sims, Ryan Warrick and Tori Whitehurst.

Fifth Grade: Chase Hall, Derek Holley and Samantha Rayborn.

Sixth Grade: Courtney Strops, Nikki Bradley, Dexter Daniels, Chase Haws, Rebecca Lester and TaRonda Randall.

Seventh Grade: Corey Beck, Brittany Tillery and Chastity Tillis.

Eighth Grade: Justin Arnold, Megan Biggs, Zeb Chandler, Donnetria Cole, Jessica Davis, Hillary Dean, Destiny Hamid, Matthew Holmes, Shakelia Johnson, Jaci Kelley, Reed Kilcrease, Maurina McClain, Chris McVay, Shantiquia Pruitt, Anthony Richards, Taylor Tew, Destiny Tillery and Chastity Tillis.

Ninth Grade: NONE

Tenth Grade: NONE

Eleventh Grade: NONE

Twelfth Grade: NONE

Twelfth Grade: Trista Jarvis and Kayla Kennedy.

A-B HONOR ROLL

First Grade: Billie Bryan, Amber Burnett, Desirae Burnett, Dominique Caldwell, Caitlin Carpenter, Raven Davis, Faith Dean, Ladarus Gulley, Zayne Hammett, Brandon Horn, Chelsea Messick, Kendrick Owens, Alexis Sams and Shayna Witherington.

Second Grade: Taylor Arnold, Charmaine Ball, Braxton Barnes, Laken Barnes, TaDarius Burnett, Madison Carpenter, Richard Doss, Daren Faulk, Alexis Foster, Shavonne Hall, Nedarius Howard, Skylar Jenkins, Zeth Johnson, Andrew Parker, Caleb Petty, Caitlin Powell, Lucas Reeves and Steven Walker.

Third Grade: Justin Arnold, Megan Biggs, Zeb Chandler, Donnetria Cole, Jessica Davis, Hillary Dean, Destiny Hamid, Matthew Holmes, Shakelia Johnson, Jaci Kelley, Reed Kilcrease, Maurina McClain, Chris McVay, Shantiquia Pruitt, Anthony Richards, Taylor Tew, Destiny Tillery and Chastity Tillis.

Fourth Grade: NONE

Fifth Grade: NONE

Sixth Grade: NONE

Seventh Grade: NONE

Eighth Grade: NONE

Ninth Grade: NONE

Tenth Grade: NONE

Eleventh Grade: NONE

Twelfth Grade: NONE

How To Use Your Personal Computer course to be offered at LBW/MacArthur Campus

Lurleen B. Wallace Community College MacArthur Campus will offer How to Use Your Personal Computer on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. for six weeks. Classes will be held in the Computer Science Department, Room G-1. Class begins Tuesday, March 11, 2003.

How to Use Your Personal Computer is a beginner course that introduces users to the world of computing and computer applications. This hands-on course will cover Windows 98/XP, Microsoft Word 2000, and e-mail. The Windows 98/XP portion of the course will include: getting started with Windows 98/XP; working with Programs, Files, and Folders; and maintaining your data.

Microsoft Word 2000 training will include: getting started with Word 2000; editing and proofing documents; formatting a document; working with tables; formatting pages; adding graphics; and working with graphics.

The e-mail portion of the training will include: sending an attachment with an e-mail message, saving an attachment as a file, and setting up an address book.

The cost of the course is \$85.00 per participant. Participants will be charged an additional fee for their textbook. Anyone interested in this course must register before Tuesday, March 11, 2003. For more information or to register please contact Susan Dee at (334) 493-3573, ext. 260.

Got something to sell? Try an Elba Clipper Classified. You'll be glad you did!

Deadline For Social News Is Monday!

Clark Theatre's Enterprise

MAR. 14 - 20
Enterprise Shopping Center
I - BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE (PG-13)
M-F 7 & 9:15 - \$65 2, 7 & 9:15
M-F 7 & 9:15 - \$65 2, 7 & 9:15

Western Center
III - WILLIARD (PG-13)
M-F 7 & 9:15 - \$65 2, 7 & 9:15
IV - HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS (PG-13)
M-F 7 & 9:15 - \$65 2, 7 & 9:15

College Cinema - College Plaza
I - YEARS OF THE SUN (R)
M-F 7 & 9:15 - \$65 2, 7 & 9:15
No Pans - No Wed. Night Discounts

II - OLD SCHOOL (R)
M-F 7 & 9:15 - \$65 2, 7 & 9:15
III - THE HUNTER (R)
M-F 7 & 9:15 - \$65 2, 7 & 9:15
No Pans - No Wed. Night Discounts

Bargain Matinee Sat. & Sun.
2 p.m. only - all seats - \$4.50
Clark Theatre - Elba

LIFESTYLES

Merrill-Davis wedding held November 16, 2002 in Pine Mountain Georgia



Mr. & Mrs. Henry (Hank) Newkirk Merrill

New Arrival

Kaylee Marie Fundum welcomed home her new baby brother, Tyler Reid. Tyler was born on February 10, 2003 at Flowers Hospital. He weighed 7 lbs. 11 oz. and was 20 1/4 inches long.

Tyler is the son of Shane and Anissa Fundum of Dothan, Ala. His grandparents are Tommy and Julia Brooks of Elba, Ala. Pat Cooper of Dothan, Ala. Gene and Patty Fundum of Athens, Ala. Great-grandparents are E.E. and Luella Fundum of Norfolk, Neb.

The groom's parents entered the wedding party with a rehearsal dinner at the Southern Pine Conference Center at Callaway Gardens.

After a wedding trip to Jamaica the couple reside in Gwinnett County, Georgia.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Rayford Beadles and the late June Beadles, of Mayfield, Ky., and Joseph O'Connor of Clearwater, Fla. and Ann Crooms of Jacksonville, Fla.

The future bridegroom is the grandson of Christine Nall of Elba and Preston Kelly of Abbeville, and Roy Jackson of Elba and the late Hazel Jackson.

He is a graduate of Troy State University and the University of Mobile, where he received his Master's degree as a family nurse practitioner. He is employed in Valdosta, Ga.

The wedding is planned for 4 p.m., March 29, 2003, at the First Christian Church in Valdosta, Ga. The reception will follow at Worry Free Weddings and Special Occasions.

The conference hours are 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Continuing education units will be offered by Wallace College. The pre-registration fee is \$45. After March 19, the fee will be \$55, is space is available. Seating limited, so early registration is recommended. To pre-register by phone, using Master Card or Visa, call Wallace College, 334-556-2205. For a registration form, call the Alzheimer's Resource Center, 334-702-2273 or 1-888-702-8689.

The event will be held in the Fellowship Hall at the First United Methodist Church, 1380 W. Main St., Dothan. The conference is presented by the Alzheimer's Resource Center in Dothan and Wallace Community College.

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Katie Mary Davis and Henry (Hank) Newkirk Merrill were united in marriage on November 16, 2002 at Ida Cason Callaway Memorial Chapel, Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Georgia. The Rev. Emory Gilbert officiated the ceremony. Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Douglas R. Davis of Smyrna, Georgia and Dr. and Mrs. Phillip H. Merrill of Dothan, Alabama. The bride was given in marriage by her father. A program of wedding music was presented by Mrs. Mildred Davis, organist.

Serving as Maid of Honor was Tiffany McIntyre of Gainesville, Georgia. Bridesmaids were Kassie Dunham of Marion, Indiana, the bride's sister-in-law Monica Davis of Douglasville, Georgia, and the groom's sister Elizabeth Merrill Hargrave of Texarkana, Arkansas. Bride's book attendant was Kathryn Coplin and favor attendants were Molly Coplin and Abby Coplin, all of Demopolis, Alabama and cousins of the groom. The wedding cake was served by Molly Shanahan of Calhoun, Georgia.

Serving as Best Man was the groom's father Dr. Philip H. Merrill of Dothan, Alabama and groomsmen/ushers were William Price of Dothan, Alabama, the bride's brother Wyatt Davis of Douglasville, Georgia, Rob Sanders of Villa Rica, Georgia, the groom's cousin Will Coplin of Demopolis, Alabama, and Tim Branscomb of Tucker, Georgia. The ring-bearer was Cole Sanders of Villa Rica, Georgia and the flower girl was Kense Bosarge of Mableton, Georgia.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held at the Callaway Inn, which included a celebration of the 55th wedding anniversary of the bride's grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Oris Willis Hatcher Sr. of Mableton, Georgia. An honored guest was the groom's grandmother Elizabeth Fleming Banks of Elba.

The groom's parents entered the wedding party with a rehearsal dinner at the Southern Pine Conference Center at Callaway Gardens.

After a wedding trip to Jamaica the couple reside in Gwinnett County, Georgia.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Rayford Beadles and the late June Beadles, of Mayfield, Ky., and Joseph O'Connor of Clearwater, Fla. and Ann Crooms of Jacksonville, Fla.

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Miss Taylor & Mr. Bozeman

Miss Taylor and Mr. Bozeman to wed Saturday, March 22

Fred and Sonya Taylor, Brundidge, and Paul and Mary Bozeman, Goshen, announce the forthcoming marriage of their children, Hannah Idell Taylor and Jason Heath Bozeman.

Miss Taylor is the granddaughter of Margaret Tew, Maud Shirey, and Gene and Lynn Lazenby. Her great-grandparents are Ethel Lazenby, and the late Art Lazenby, and the late Mr. and Mrs. David Tew.

She is a 2002 graduate of Pike County High School in Brundidge. She is pursuing a degree in business at Enterprise State Junior College.

Mr. Bozeman is the grandson of the late Ronald and Lucy

Bozeman, and the late Macon and Emily Helms. His great-grandparents were the late Mr. and Mrs. James Bozeman, the late Mr. and Mrs. William Bradley, the late Annie Mae Helms, the late Mr. and Mrs. Arcus Helms, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Howell.

He is a 1999 graduate of Luverne High School in Luverne. He is currently employed in Troy and is a volunteer fireman in Goshen.

The wedding will be held Saturday, March 22, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at Goshen Baptist Church, Goshen.

All family and friends are invited to attend.

The wedding is planned for 4 p.m., March 29, 2003, at the First Christian Church in Valdosta, Ga. The reception will follow at Worry Free Weddings and Special Occasions.

The conference hours are 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Continuing education units will be offered by Wallace College. The pre-registration fee is \$45. After March 19, the fee will be \$55, is space is available. Seating limited, so early registration is recommended. To pre-register by phone, using Master Card or Visa, call Wallace College, 334-556-2205. For a registration form, call the Alzheimer's Resource Center, 334-702-2273 or 1-888-702-8689.

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SPORTS

Views from....

THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

A lot of readers have told me over the years that they have grown up with my girls while reading about them in my column each week, and last week we all grew a little older as Melissa turned twenty. I can still remember the day she was born and how we were caught by surprise when the doctor said we had a little girl, but how proud we have been ever since as she excelled in school and athletics, and grew into a young woman. I'm not sure if my feeling is one of growing old or simply sadness as one of my little girls continues her march toward becoming an adult. One thing for certain, it hurts this old Dad.

SWINGS AND MISSES...

*** The Elba Lady Tiger softball team rolled through five games undefeated last weekend to win the Andalusia High School Softball Classic and in doing so improved their early-season record to a perfect 7-0. The Lady Tigers battled through stiff competition, rainy weather and muddy fields to bring home the title, and after only two weeks have already established themselves as a team to watch in the 3A ranks. With only two seniors in the starting lineup, it looks like the Lady Tigers have made the switch to fast-pitch softball very successfully and are already a state tournament contender. It takes a team effort to win in any sport and this year's team is a close knit bunch. However, after seven games it is crystal clear that Elba has one of the state's top young pitchers in freshman Stephanie Baxley. Through seven games, Baxley has compiled a 7-0 record and has pitched 41 innings while allowing only 16 hits, 19 walks and striking out 59 batters. Any coach will tell you pitching is the key to winning in fast-pitch softball, and here in Elba the Lady Tigers have the key that could open the door to many wins this season.

*** The Elba Tigers opened their baseball season last week and posted one win in two tries to end the week with a 1-1 record. The Tigers have a veteran team that includes five seniors in the starting lineup, and if they can get some pitchers to step up and take charge they could be headed for another big season. Elba will be very busy in the days ahead, weather permitting, and it will be interesting to see if the Tigers settle down and play like the team everyone expects them to be. Only time will tell.

*** Troy State punched its ticket to the "Big Dance" over the weekend by winning the Atlantic Sun tournament, and in doing so became the first team in the 65 team field that will take part in March Madness. The Trojans improved their record to 26-5 with three wins in the tournament, and the guess here is that they will get a 13 seed, or maybe even a 12 seed. If Troy State can get a good seed, the Trojans could just surprise some folks when they tip it off next week. A few years ago it seemed strange when South Alabama would make the NCAA tournament ahead of Alabama and Auburn, and this year the Trojans may very well lay claim to the same honor. Great job TSU!

*** A few hundred fans were on hand Saturday to watch Alabama hold its first scrimmage of spring football practice, and as expected the Crimson Tide aired it out as the Tide put the ball in the air 52 times in 83 offensive plays. Coach Mike Price laughed and said it was a "running scrimmage" after finding out his team had run the ball 32 times, but it seems clear already that the new Bama coach is serious when he says that the new Tide will travel by air next season.

*** In closing...Coffee County, South Alabama, thousands of softball players and even more friends lost a true loved one last weekend when Levie "Pop" Kelley passed away at the age of 83. Pop Kelley loved the sport of softball and during his life touched the lives of too many youngsters and adults to begin to name. He coached one of the state's top women's softball teams for many years, and even as he grew older, Pop could always be seen at area sporting events supporting his grandchildren as they participated in summer ball or high school athletics. His eye sight failed him in recent years and often times he would tell me he couldn't see what was going on, but he always seemed to know just what was going on on the court, or on the field. I can say without hesitation that I loved and respected the man, and that I never attended a sporting event at which he was in attendance that I didn't sit down with him and chat. His passing will leave a huge void in his family, but also in all of us that knew him for so many years. We'll all miss you, Pop.

MEN'S SOFTBALL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2003 7:00 PM
RECREATION CENTER - ELBA

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For first win of the season

Elba Tigers bounce Brockton 13-6

The Elba Tigers got into the win column and evened their record at 1-1 Thursday night with a soggy 13-6 win over the New Brockton Gamecocks, in New Brockton.

Neither team scored in the opening two innings, but the Tigers came to life at the plate in the top of the third and plated two runs to grab a 2-0 lead. A lead-off single by Kyle English sparked the early Elba uprising, while an rbi triple by Jason Curran gave the Tigers a 1-0 lead, and Curran later scored on a sacrifice fly by Rick Smith as Elba moved ahead 2-0.

New Brockton combined four hits with two walks in the bottom of the third to plate three runs and carried the slim 3-2 lead into the fifth inning, only to see Elba break loose for four

runs in the inning as the Tigers regained the lead at 6-3.

A bases-loaded double by Brandon Petty was the key hit in the Elba rally, while Petty also scored in the inning on an rbi single by Jason Curran.

The Tigers took advantage of three straight walks to load the bases in the top of the sixth, and when Blake Lambert followed a two-run single, Elba was ready to blow the game open.

A double by Brandon Petty knocked in two more Tigers runs as Elba moved ahead 10-3, and Jason Curran followed with an rbi double as the Tigers blew the game open by moving on top 11-3 in the top of the sixth.

Consecutive hits by Matthew Curran, Blake Lambert, Brandon Petty and Kyle English helped Elba increase its lead to

13-3 in the top of the seventh, and the Tigers easily held off a lateamecock rally to post the big 13-6 win.

Jason Curran had a single, double and a triple to lead the Tigers at the plate, while Brandon Petty also added 3 hits and scored 2 runs. Kyle English and Matthew Curran both added 2 hits and scored 2 runs, while Blake Lambert had 2 hits and scored 1 run.

Kyle English got the win on the mound as he pitched five innings and allowed three runs on three hits and three walks, while striking out four. Brandon Petty closed out the win with two innings in relief, and allowed three runs on five hits and one walk.



Kyle English tossed a 3-hit last week against New Brockton to lift the Tigers to their first win of the young season against the Gamecocks.

Elba Tigers drop season opener to Brantley 6-5

The Elba Tigers opened their 2003 high school baseball season last Tuesday night against the Brantley Bulldogs and watched as the visiting Bulldogs rallied late to hand the Tigers a 6-5 loss, in Elba.

The Tigers failed to score in the opening two innings and trailed 2-0 heading into the bottom of the third, but showed signs of life in the inning and used a walk to Derrick Thomas and two stolen bases to plate a run and cut the Brantley lead to 2-1.

A lead-off single by Kyle English led to an Elba rally in the fourth inning as the Tigers scored two runs to grab the lead at 3-2. English stole second and later scored on a sacrifice fly by Marcus Henderson, while a two-run single by Ralston Moore kept the rally alive, and Elba then took the lead at 3-2 when Rick Smith ripped an rbi triple to left field.

Brantley pulled even at 3-3 in the top of the fifth, but the

Tigers bounced right back and regained the lead at 4-3 in the bottom of the inning when Ryan Gibbs singled and then raced home on an rbi double by Matthew Curran.

Brantley combined four hits with one walk in the top of the sixth to move back on top 6-4.

Elba failed to score in its half of the sixth, but showed signs of life in the seventh and pulled within 6-5 when Brandon Petty doubled and then scored on an rbi single by Jason Curran. Curran never got any closer than second base in the Tigers final at-bat, and the Tigers suffered the loss 6-5.

Kyle English got 2 hits and scored 1 run to lead Elba at the plate, while Brandon Petty, Ralston Moore and Ryan Gibbs all added 1 hit and scored 1 run. Elba's Derrick Thomas pitched five innings and allowed three runs on four hits and four walks, while Marcus Henderson took the loss in relief as he pitched two innings and allowed three runs on four hits and two walks.

High School Diamond Dust

Kinston pounded by Geneva County 16-1

The Kinston Bulldogs were no match for Geneva County last Monday afternoon as they dropped a 16-1 decision. Matthew Wilkerson got 3 hits and ripped a solo home run to lead Kinston at the plate, while Wes Windom got 3 hits for Geneva County and Dustin Herring got the win on the mound with an eight strike out performance.

Zion Chapel rally sinks Pike County 8-7

The Zion Chapel Rebels got into the win column last Monday afternoon with an exciting 8-7 win over the Pike County Bulldogs. Josh Smith scored the winning run from third base on a wild pitch in the bottom of the seventh, while Brandon Arnold got the win on the mound and Macon Hodge, Michael Snead and Josh Smith all had key hits.

Zion Chapel sneaks past Houston County 4-3

The Zion Chapel Rebels continued their winning way Saturday with a 4-3 win over the Houston County Lions. Brandon Arnold pitched a 3-hitter with 12 strike outs to get the win for the Rebels, while Sam Wambles added 2 hits.

* Baseball * Softball * SCHEDULES

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

* Baseball *
Elba at Samson (JV-V) 3:30
Kinston at Zion Chapel (JV) 4:00
* Softball *
Daleville at Elba (JV) 4:00
New Brockton at Kinston (JV-V) 4:30

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

* Baseball *
Elba at Abbeville (JV-V) 4:30
Kinston at New Brockton (JV-V) 4:30

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

* Softball *
Kinston & New Brockton, in Arnton Tournament

MONDAY, MARCH 17

* Baseball *
Elba at Zion Chapel (JV-V) 4:00
Kinston at Samson (V) 1:00
* Softball *
Elba at Luverne (JV) 4:00
Brantley at Kinston (JV-V) 4:00

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

* Baseball *
Elba at Luverne (JV-V) 4:30
* Softball *
New Brockton at Elba (JV-V) 4:00

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

* Baseball *
Elba at Opp (JV) 4:00
* Softball *
Abbeville at Elba (V) 4:00

Elba Tiger JV open season with win over Arnton, drop next two as record slips to 1-2 on season

The Elba Tiger JV baseball team opened its season last week and posted one win in three outings to see its early-season record move to 1-2.

"The junior varsity has played pretty well in all three games," said Elba's Coach Wynn Grimes, "but made two many mistakes to win in the two losses, and must be more consistent if it wants to have a winning season. The team has enough talent to win, and as the season rolls along I look for it to improve and start playing winning ball every time it hits the field."

Following are highlights of last week's three games.

ELBA 15

ARNTON 5

The Elba JV Tigers pulled ahead early and never looked back last Monday afternoon as they opened the season with a big 14-5 win over Arnton, in Elba.

Arnton took advantage of three free passes and one Elba error to grab a quick 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning, but the Tigers came to bat ready to plate some runs of their own in the bottom of the frame and combined three walks with two errors and one hit to score six runs to take a 6-2 lead.

Aaron Harrelson reached on an error to open the big inning for the Tigers, while Adam Spicer delivered a two-run single to spark the early uprising that put Elba ahead to stay!

LaRay Williams walked and later scored on an rbi single by Taylor McGuire as Elba upped its lead to 7-2 in the second. However, Arnton refused to die and rallied to score two runs in its half of the third to cut the Tiger advantage to 7-4.

A two-out single by Aaron Harrelson followed by an rbi double by LaRay Williams resulted in two Elba runs in the bottom of the third as the Tigers upped their lead to 9-4, and Elba then added five runs in its half of the fourth to blow the game open and roll to the 14-5 win.

The fourth inning fireworks were highlighted by a two-run double by Drew Parker, while Chase Boutwell, LaRay Williams and Aaron Harrelson both added hits and scored runs.

LaRay Williams got 2 hits and scored 4 runs to lead Elba at the plate, while Aaron Harrelson added 2 hits and scored 3 runs and Adam Spicer had 2 hits and collected 2 runs batted in. Spicer also pitched a complete game three hitter with six strike-outs.

BRANTLEY 10

ELBA 7

The Elba JV Tigers saw their record slip to 1-1 last Tuesday afternoon with a 10-7 loss to the Brantley Bulldogs, in Elba.

The two rivals combined for only one hit and no runs in the opening two innings, but both teams began to swing their bats after the quiet opening innings and lit up the scoreboard.

Brantley combined three hits with two errors to plate four runs in the top of the third, but the Tigers rallied quickly and matched the Bulldogs' outburst by scoring four runs in their half of the inning to pull even at 4-4.

Aaron Harrelson, LaRay Williams and Brad Sullivan all reached on errors to open the inning, while a walk to Adam Spicer and a two-run single by Taylor McGuire helped Elba catch the Bulldogs after three innings of play.

Brantley combined two hits with four walks and a hit batter to plate six runs in the top of the fourth to regain the lead at 10-4, and then turned back an Elba rally in the bottom of the frame to hold on and defeat the Tigers 10-7.

The Tigers' Taylor McGuire had a big two-run single in the inning to help spark the Elba rally, but the late comeback effort fell short.

Taylor McGuire had 2 hits to lead Elba at the plate, while Aaron Harrelson, LaRay Williams and Brad Sullivan all scored 2 runs. Clark Skinner took the loss on the mound as he pitched four innings and allowed six runs on five hits and two walks.

N.B. 4
ELBA 3

The Elba JV Tigers dropped their second game of the week on Thursday night when they fell to the New Brockton Gamecocks 4-3, in New Brockton.

Aaron Harrelson walked and later scored on an rbi single by Clark Skinner as the Tigers jumped out to a quick 1-0 lead, only to see New Brockton combine two hits with two free passes in the bottom of the inning as the Gamecocks grabbed a 2-1 advantage.

Consecutive hits by Chase Boutwell, Aaron Harrelson, LaRay Williams and Clark Skinner resulted in two Elba runs in the top of the fourth as the Tigers regained the lead at 3-2. However, the Gamecocks again answered the Elba rally and plated two runs in their half of the inning to regain the lead at 4-3.

Chase Boutwell got a two-out single in the bottom of the fifth to give the Tigers hopes of a late rally, but it proved short-lived as Elba failed to score and took the loss 4-3.

Clark Skinner got 2 hits and knocked in 2 runs to lead Elba at the plate, while Aaron Harrelson added 1 hit and scored 2 runs. Adam Spicer was the losing pitcher as he pitched four innings and allowed four runs on three hits and four walks.

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SPORTS

Post five straight wins

Lady Tigers bring home tourney title



Elba Lady Tiger Haley Duncan waits for a pitch in recent softball action. The Lady Tigers boast a 7-0 record after two weeks of the season and will return to action next week against New Brockton.

The Elba Lady Tigers competed in the Andalusia High School Softball Classic over the weekend and claimed five straight wins to bring home the championship trophy and up their record on the season to a perfect 7-0.

"We had looked forward to give us a good idea of just where we were early in the season," said Coach Amelia Rhoades, "and to win the tournament should really give our girls a shot of confidence. We faced good competition in every game and the championship game didn't end until after two o'clock Sunday morning, but the girls never once complained about the heat, the conditions or the cold, damp weather, and just kept on playing hard. We didn't hit the ball as well as we will have to as the season progresses, and saw a few other areas that will need some work. However, it was a great win for the girls, and for the softball program at Elba High School and one that we are all mighty proud of."

Following are tournament highlights:

ELBA 11

H. HOME 7

The Elba Lady Tigers opened the 12-team tournament on Friday night with a wild 11-7 win over Highland Home. Lacy Carlile and Haley Duncan had out to a quick 3-0 lead, while Devri Kilcrease ripped a three-run homer in the second to lift the Lady Tigers to a 6-0 advantage. Whitney Lawford singled

and later scored in the third as Elba continued to pull away by upping its lead to 7-0, and the Lady Tigers took advantage of five walks in the top of the fourth to grab a commanding 11-0 lead. Highland Home took advantage of five errors to plate seven runs in its half of the inning and made the Elba fans nervous, but the Lady Tigers held on and posted the 11-7 win.

Devri Kilcrease had 2 hits and knocked in 4 runs to lead Elba at the plate, which took advantage of 13 walks in the four-inning contest. Stephanie Baxley pitched four innings and allowed no runs on three hits, while striking out nine batters and walking none.

The Elba Lady Tigers claimed their second win of the opening night by blanking Straughn 7-0. Jessica Danford and Whitney Lawford had rbi hits in the second inning to help the Lady Tigers move ahead 3-0, while Stephanie Baxley and Michelle Carpenter both got hits in the fourth inning to help Elba up its advantage to 6-0 on its way to the 7-0 win.

Whitney Lawford got 1 hit and scored 3 runs to lead Elba at the plate, while Stephanie Baxley pitched five innings and allowed no runs on one hit, while striking out three batters.

ELBA 3
P. HOME 2

The Elba Lady Tigers pulled ahead 3-0 in the fifth inning and held on late to escape with a 3-2 win.

Whitney Lawford singled

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win over the Pleasant Home Lady Eagles, in action Saturday afternoon. The Lady Tigers stranded two base runners in both the first and second innings, but finally got on the scoreboard in the fourth when Michelle Carpenter singled and later scored on a bases-loaded walk. A double by Haley Duncan and base hits by Jessica Danford and Whitney Lawford helped Elba up its lead to 3-0 in the fifth. However, Pleasant Home cut the lead to 3-1 in the bottom of the fifth and then pulled within 3-2 in the sixth, only to have the potential tying run thrown out at the plate as Elba held on for the win.

Haley Duncan, Jessica Danford and Whitney Lawford all got 2 hits to lead Elba, which stranded 11 base runners in the game. Stephanie Baxley got the win on the rubber as she limited Pleasant Home to two runs on two hits and three walks, while striking out nine batters.

ELBA 9
SAMSON 1

The Elba Lady Tigers remained unbeaten with a 9-2 win over Samson, in a winner's bracket showdown late Saturday night. Neither team managed to score in the opening four innings, but Elba finally denied the board in the fifth when Whitney Lawford singled and then walked around the bases after three straight walks. Greta Robinson and Michelle Carpenter led off the sixth inning with singles to wake up the Elba offensive attack, and the Lady Tigers combined the

two hits with five walks and two errors to plate five runs as Elba upped its advantage to 7-0. Danae Ware had a big hit in the seventh to spark a two-run outburst for Elba as the Lady Tigers easily held on for the 9-2 win.

Michelle Carpenter, Whitney Lawford and Samantha Williams all got 1 hit and scored 2 runs to lead Elba at the plate, while Stephanie Baxley got the win as she pitched seven innings and allowed two runs on five hits and four walks, while striking out nine batters.

ELBA 8
SAMSON 1

The Elba Lady Tigers claimed the tournament championship early Sunday morning by posting an 8-1 win over Samson. Samantha Williams reached on an error and later scored on a bases-loaded walk to give Elba a 1-0 lead in the second inning, while the Lady Tigers took advantage of six walks in the third inning to plate three runs and increase their lead to 4-0. Samson pulled within 5-1 in the bottom of the fourth, but the Lady Tigers rallied to score three runs in the fifth to out the game away, with the key hit bringing a triple by Devri Kilcrease.

Devri Kilcrease and Whitney Lawford both got 1 hit and scored 1 run to lead Elba at the plate, while Samantha Williams scored 3 runs. Stephanie Baxley pitched five innings to get the win on the rubber and allowed one run on one hit and two walks, while striking out seven batters.

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Willard awarded

Rattler win after DQ sends Bradberry out of winner's circle

By Mark Chisum

Last March, Charlie Bradberry almost let victory in South Alabama Speedway's annual Rattler Late Model race slip away. Near the conclusion of last year's event, Bradberry's Monte Carlo slipped up the track in turn four, allowing Duwayne Middlebrooks and Regan Baker to slide by. When Middlebrooks and Baker spun while fighting for the lead with two laps to go, Bradberry got a second chance and held on for the win. In this year's 27th Annual Rattler, Bradberry slipped again, this time in Victory Lane, and there was no second chance.

After holding off Wayne Willard and Jason Hogan for an apparent second win in the early season event, Bradberry wheeled into Victory Lane. As his crew gathered around to celebrate, South Alabama Tech man Paul Willoughby saw Bradberry slip an item from inside the car to Crew Chief Mike Shelton. When Shelton refused to produce the item, Bradberry was disqualified for "refusal to allow inspection of part removed from car during post race activities". The winner's trophy was removed from atop of Bradberry's roof and placed on Willard's.

In local features, Kevin Rehwinkel held off 2002 Super Stock Champion Jody Henderson to win an exciting 50-lap Super Stock Feature.

Shep Lucas took the lead from Doug Rogers on lap 40 and went on to win the 50-lap Modified Feature.

In the 35-lap Vintage Feature

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Pine Level Senior Citizens intends to apply to the Alabama Department of Transportation for a federal capital funding grant under Section 5310 of the Federal Transit Act. This funding is for the purchase of vehicles to help meet the transportation needs of the elderly and/or disabled in Pine Level area of Coffee County. Persons wishing to comment on the proposed service are requested to do so within 30 days by writing to the following address below:

Coffee County Commission #2 County Complex New Brockton, AL 36351 3-13ch

Relating to the Coffee County Commission, providing for the county commission, and to repeal Act 1259, 1971 Regular Session (Acts 1971, p. 2175).

Section 2. The Coffee County Commission shall consist of seven members, elected from single-member districts one through seven, inclusive, by the qualified voters residing within each district. The seven districts shall be apportioned as provided by last decennial census shall reside in the district he or she represents at the time of qualification for office and during his tenure. The chair of the commission, who shall be a voting member of the commission, shall be elected at the first meeting after the election of the county commission from among the seven members of the commission to serve for a one-year term. A successor shall be elected each year in the same manner and any person serving as chair may serve succeeding terms.

Section 2. The composition and election of the county commission as it existed on January 1, 2003, is ratified and confirmed. The districts for the election of commissioners in 2004 shall be the districts as existing prior to the effective date of this act by the U.S. Justice Department after the 2000 census. This act shall continue to apply to commissioners elected for a term of office for county commissioners or Coffee County on or after that date.

Section 3. All laws or parts of laws which conflict with this act are repealed. Act 1259, 1971 Regular Session (Acts 1971, p. 2175), relating to the county commission in counties having a population of not less than 34,100, nor more than 34,900 is hereby repealed.

Section 4. This act shall become effective immediately following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law. 3-6,13,20,27ch

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF

Shapiro & Tucker, L.L.P. Shaprio & Tucker, L.L.P. reserved the right to award the bid to the next highest bidder, or to reschedule the sale, should the highest bidder fail to timely tender the total amount due.



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The Elba Clipper

Volume 106, Number 40 50 Cents Elba, Alabama Thursday, March 20, 2003 1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

Recent showers and thunderstorms remind local citizens of past floods



The Pea River was well within sight of motorists traveling across the Pea River bridge Monday, March 17, on U.S. Highway 84 in Elba. Earlier in the day, the river stage was recorded at more than 15 feet with rains expected throughout the day, and although Tuesday brought a bit of sunshine to the area, the rain was expected to return again Wednesday with a pretty good chance it would stick around for Thursday and Friday as well. It is important to note, however, that the river is still well below flood stage despite being at a higher level than normal.

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Rain, rain and more rain, that has been the way things have gone in Elba and Coffee County lately as each and every day the area seems to experience some sort of down-pour whether light or heavy.

This pattern of daily rain not only has managed to soak the ground around the area, but it has served as a reminder of years past. Local citizens remember quite well the dates of March 8 and March 17 as each marks the anniversary of a flood.

Saturday, March 8, was the fifth anniversary of the 1998 flood of Elba while Monday, March 17, was the 13th anniversary of the 1990 flood.

So, what happened this year on these days?

It rained! And, the river rose just a little bit more.

It has become the norm in these parts to keep a close eye on the old Pea River when the area plays victim to above average amounts of rainfall, and the past few weeks have been no exception to the rule.

The river stage has seemed to steadily increase as the rains continue; however, the rise has not been an overwhelming one as it was in 1990 and again in 1998.

This week began with the anniversary of the 1990 flood, and the rain continued to come. Those traveling across the Pea River bridge on U.S. Highway 84 did not have to look hard to find the raging waters as the river measured in at more than 15 feet Monday morning. Tuesday brought a change in the weather as the sun made an unusual appearance, but forecasters did not allow anyone to get too excited over the clear skies. The chance of rain was expected to increase again by Wednesday morning with pretty high chances throughout the remainder of the week.

And, with this time of year being such a memorable one for the people of Elba, maybe it was fitting to have rainy weather. Otherwise, one local citizen would not have been overheard saying he couldn't "remember a March 17 when it didn't rain."

Congressman Everett reacts to President Bush's address on Iraq

Following President Bush's address to the nation Monday evening, March 17, Congressman Terry Everett issued the following statement in response:

"Tonight, President Bush made one of the most important speeches of his Presidency. He informed the nation and the world that diplomacy has failed to force Saddam Hussein to give up his weapons of mass destruction. He issued an ultimatum to Saddam to disarm and leave Iraq or face certain military action."

"I am fully supportive of the President's decision and agree that diplomacy has reached an end. It is regrettable that the French have used their veto threat to prevent a majority vote in the U.N. Security Council. I do not believe that Saddam will voluntarily surrender his control of Iraq. It will be only a matter of days before military action is taken."

"It is very likely that Saddam will try to launch preemptive attacks against his neighbors and I understand that he has already armed his troops with chemical shells. Saddam has been given a final warning. There will be no more Iraqi deceit and delay. The next step - war or peaceful resolution - is entirely up to Saddam Hussein."

In his address, Bush said, "The Security Council has not lived up to its responsibilities so we will rise to ours."

He gave Saddam Hussein and his two sons 48 hours to leave Iraq, and said if they chose to stay and remain in power, war would commence, "at a time of our choosing."

Elba Council approves new voting districts

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba City Council again approved alcohol licenses for several who had completed all the legal paper work to get their official permits. Council members also saw a "new look" in the monthly list of bills payable and voted to accept a voting district redistricting plan which had been presented to the public in a non-attended public hearing the previous week.

A retail beer license was approved for James Gray, Jr.

Wholesale deliver licenses were approved for Adams Beverage Co. and United Distributing Co. a wholesale table wine delivery license was approved for D & A Wholesalers.

The new voter redistricting plan approved by the council was necessary following the 2000 census which indicated an imbalance of voters in the five districts. With an official population of 4,185, a perfect voting district would include 837 citizens. The new districts actually vary from 812 to 849 residents.

The council approved the appointment of Myrna Cowen to another six year term on the Industrial Development Board.

Mayor Grimes reported that the City of Elba and Elba Industrial Development Board were in active discussions with someone interested in the city owned spec building located in the Airport Industrial Park. He explained however that the city is handicapped in such matters

and recommended title to the new building be transferred to the Industrial Board, which has more flexibility in negotiating such deals. The council approved the recommendation.

When asked by a council member exactly who would be paying the outstanding note on the building, Grimes said that matter was still an active part of the ongoing discussions.

Police Chief R. W. Whitworth reported that the new NCIC was installed and working, as was the new back up generator. There are still some problems with computer software, but that matter is being addressed.

Whitworth also noted the huge increase in drug arrests by local officials. Local officers arrested 50 on drug charges during February, compared to 24 the previous month. They also assisted several other agencies on other drug cases.

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The quarter also includes an Alabama long leaf pine branch as magnolias grace the sides of the design. A "Spirit of Courage" banner underlines the central image.

As a small child, an illness destroyed Helen Keller's sight and hearing. Despite these disabilities, she managed to learn to speak and read using the raised and manual alphabets, as well as Braille.

Miss Keller graduated with honors from Radcliffe and received a Bachelor of Arts degree. She published numerous books, articles, essays and was always an activist concerning social issues for the disabled persons and women.

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THE ELBA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE held its third ribbon cutting in as many weeks last Friday, March 14, when the State Farm Insurance Company held an open house for Elba's newest agent, Stan Houston. After completing an internship to become an agent, Houston officially took over the Elba office, formerly headed by Mike McGuire, in January. Since that time, he has relocated the business to the former Whitman Drug office on the 203 Bypass. The office offers a full line of insurance needs, and Houston and his staff are eager to serve the community. To highlight the open house event, the Elba Chamber of Commerce welcomed Houston to business Friday afternoon with the ribbon cutting ceremony. Those present for the cutting were (from left): Sam Cooper, Kaye Whitworth - executive director of the Elba Chamber of Commerce, Wayne Lawford, Junior Miss Elba Lyndsay Lawford, Cammie Kelley, Elmer Taylor, Anna Harrison, Future Little Miss Elba Sarah Bryan, Rev. John Baxter, Doris Matthews, Stanley Houston Sr., Elba Mayor James Grimes, Stan Houston - agent, Will Hardman - State Farm District office, Elba Houston, Kenneth Calhoun, Sandra Franklin - office manager, Little Miss Elba Brinley Williams, Herby McCall and Miss Elba Shay Johnson.